

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the method comprising:
receiving application and system information from one or more inoculation clients installed on the said devices, said receiving performed via peer-to-peer communication;
comparing said application and system information with application and version information in a global update repository to determine if an update exists for a corresponding application controlled by an inoculation client, the global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers;
queueing the said update if an update exists for an application controlled by an inoculation client;
receiving a communication from the said corresponding inoculation client checking for available distribution jobs; and
automatically transmitting the said update to the said corresponding inoculation client in response to the said receiving a communication if an update exists for an application controlled by the said corresponding inoculation client.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
configuring an inoculation server distributed across one or more of the devices; and
performing an initial connection between the said inoculation server and the said global update repository.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ application and system information includes operating system information and version.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ application and system information includes installed software applications and versions.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ application and system information includes network information.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ application and system information is received in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ queuing the ~~said~~ update includes linking the ~~said~~ update package and the ~~said~~ corresponding application in a database table.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the global update repository is a centralized repository that manages operating systems and software to be delivered to inoculation servers.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, therein the ~~said~~ global update repository mines, retrieves, and archives external update information.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~said~~ external update information is mined and retrieved from external security websites.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the ~~said~~ global update repository uses web spiders.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ comparing includes utilizing an HTTP GET or POST command.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~said~~ external update information contains a vendor type, the ~~said~~ vendor type being automatic download and release, automatic download and manually confirm release, or manually download and confirm.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ comparing is performed by an inventory control engine.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ queuing is performed by a distribution engine.
- 16 - 19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving application and system information from one or more inoculation clients installed on the said devices, the said receiving performed via peer-to-peer communication;

means for comparing the said application and system information with application and version information in a global update repository to determine if an update exists for a corresponding application controlled by an inoculation client, the global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers;

means for queueing the said update if an update exists for an application controlled by an inoculation client;

means for receiving a communication from the said corresponding inoculation client checking for available distribution jobs; and

means for automatically transmitting the said update to the said corresponding inoculation client in response to the said receiving a communication if an update exists for an application controlled by the said corresponding inoculation client.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

means for configuring an inoculation server distributed across one or more of the devices;

and

means for performing an initial connection between the said inoculation server and the said global update repository.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the said application and system information includes operating system information and version.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the ~~said~~ application and system information includes installed software applications and versions.
24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the ~~said~~ application and system information includes network information.
25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the ~~said~~ application and system information is received in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.
26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the ~~said~~ queuing the ~~said~~ update includes linking the ~~said~~ update package and the ~~said~~ corresponding application in a database table.
27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the global update repository is a centralized repository that manages operating systems and software to be delivered to inoculation servers.
28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, therein the ~~said~~ global update repository mines, retrieves, and archives external update information.
29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the ~~said~~ external update information is mined and retrieved from external security websites.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the said global update repository uses web spiders.
31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the said means for comparing includes means for utilizing an HTTP GET or POST command.
32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the said external update information contains a vendor type, the said vendor type being automatic download and release, automatic download and manually confirm release, or manually download and confirm.
33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the said means for comparing is an inventory control engine.
34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the said means for queuing is a distribution engine.
35. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the method comprising:

receiving application and system information from one or more inoculation clients installed on the said devices, the said receiving performed via peer-to-peer communication;

comparing the said application and system information with application and version information in a global update repository to determine if an update exists for a corresponding application controlled by an inoculation client, the global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers; queueing the said update if an update exists for an application controlled by an inoculation client; receiving a communication from the said corresponding inoculation client checking for available distribution jobs; and automatically transmitting the said update to the said corresponding inoculation client in response to the said receiving a communication if an update exists for an application controlled by the said corresponding inoculation client.

36. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a global update repository including software updates from multiple application manufacturers; and
an inoculation server configured to:
receive application and system information from one or more inoculation clients installed on a network of devices controlled by an organization, the receiving performed via peer-to-peer communication;
compare the application and system information with application and version information in the global update repository to determine if an update exists for a corresponding application controlled by an inoculation client;
queue the update if an update exists for an application controlled by an inoculation client;

receive a communication from the corresponding inoculation client checking for

available distribution jobs; and

automatically transmit the update to the corresponding inoculation client in response to

the receiving a communication if an update exists for an application controlled by

the corresponding inoculation client.